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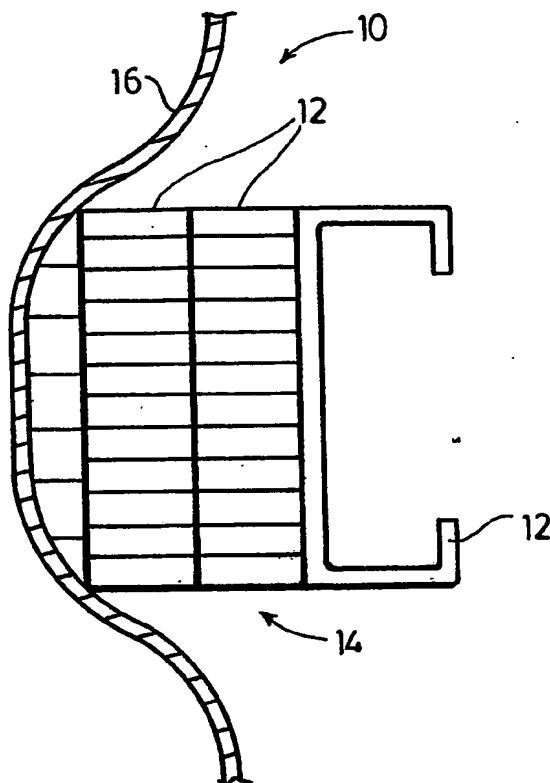
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **BUMPER ENERGY ABSORBER AND METHOD OF FABRICATING AND ASSEMBLING THE SAME**



(57) Abstract: A bumper beam energy absorbing system (10) is disclosed for absorbing impact energy exerted on an automotive vehicle. The energy absorbing system (10) includes a rigid, structural impact beam (12), a decorative fascia (16), and an energy absorber (14) sandwiched between the impact beam (12) and fascia (16). The impact beam (12) is adapted to attach the energy absorber to the vehicle while the fascia (16) decoratively covers and conceals the energy absorber (14). The energy absorber (14) is comprised of layers of cell panels (20). Each cell panel (20) is extruded into an open cell network in which interconnected closed loop cell walls define a plurality of open cells, thereby creating the network. The cross-section of the cells (22, 22') in one cell panel may differ to adjust the amount of energy absorbed by a particular section of the panel. Likewise, the overall open cell network may vary between the layers, thereby adjusting the amount of energy absorbed by each particular layer.



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